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1. WHITE HOUSE: 'Big Oil' huddles with Obama's 'first friend,' and refining rules stall

At 9:30 a.m. on a warm day in March, eight men and two women stepped off Pennsylvania Avenue and into the northwest gate of the White House. They were top-level refining executives from the world's largest oil companies escorted by Jack Gerard, the brash president of the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's top lobby. Ushered into the West Wing, they met Valerie Jarrett, a longtime confidante of President Obama and White House power player. In the weeks before the meeting, EPA was advancing toward the White House new restrictions on the amount of sulfur in gasoline. But since that meeting with Jarrett, best known as Obama's "first friend," the sulfur rules have stalled in bureaucratic limbo while environmentalists have stewed.

2. NATURAL GAS: Authors of model fracking regulation find it's lonely in the middle

For more than two years, the Environmental Defense Fund has been seeking to line up state regulators and energy companies behind a model regulatory framework for shale gas and oil development that protects underground drinking water supplies and public health. But EDF's search for regulatory consensus has pulled it into scarred political terrain, where some environmental groups oppose hydraulic fracturing outright and many industry and state officials challenge any moves to standardize regulation and oversight of a game-changing energy frontier.

THIS MORNING'S STORIES

3. HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: New York poised to start from scratch on fracking regs

4. LNG: Sierra Club, Dominion face judge over Calvert Cliffs export plan

5. ENERGY MARKETS: Pipeline linking Bakken gas to Chicago market gets U.S. go-ahead

6. PEOPLE: Ex-Petrobras attorney moves to D.C.-based firm

7. SAFETY: Okla. refinery blast leaves 1 dead, 1 injured

8. WATER: Emails show EPA scaled back probe in Dimock, Pa.

9. CAMPAIGN 2012: Fracking shaping up to be dividing point in N.Y. races

10. EAGLE FORD: South Texas railways traffic grows tenfold due to flourishing oil industry

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

11. CLIMATE: Climate Action Reserve's Gero previews next month's Calif. allowance auction

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